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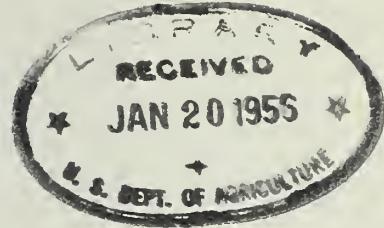
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By an Act of Congress, approved August 8, 1894, the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized and directed to procure a proper seal to be known as the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture. By an order dated June 21, 1895, Honorable J. Sterling Morton, at that time Secretary of Agriculture, proclaimed the adoption of an Official Seal for the Department of Agriculture in the following terms:

"ORDERED, That the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture shall be (as described in Heraldic terms), two and three-eighths inches in diameter (azure), a shock of corn (or), upon a base (vert) an American plough proper. All within a double annulet (argent), outer roped, inner beaded, charged with the inscription: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, and at base, a scroll bearing the legend: '1862. AGRICULTURE IS THE FOUNDATION OF MANUFACTURE AND COMMERCE. 1889.' (or), A diapered background of 44 stars (argent) for the States of the Union."

Records indicate that the design for the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture was drawn by A. H. Baldwin, an artist in the employ of the Department, and submitted for criticism to Bailey, Banks, and Biddle, of Philadelphia, Pa. Secretary Morton showed a great amount of interest in the design of the Official Seal, even to the point of holding several conferences with Department officials and commercial concerns.

A green or gold seal and a green ribbon are used on many documents with the impression of the seal. There are no official requirements for the use of green; however, it is deemed to be appropriate for use by this Department.



The flag pictured above, which is the only flag of the Department of Agriculture, was authorized by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard on June 9, 1941. The official description is as follows:

"The color of the flag of the Secretary of Agriculture will be of blue silk, four feet four inches on the pike by five feet six inches fly. In each of the four corners will be a white 5-pointed star, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, with one point upward. The centers of the stars will be $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the long edges and 12 inches from the short edges of the colors. In the center of the color will be the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, adopted June 21, 1895, 31 inches in diameter, in proper colors, which consists of a shield azure with a shock of corn upon a base vert, in back of an American plough proper, within an annulet argent, outer edges roped, inner edges beaded, charged with the inscription "United States Department of Agriculture," and in base a scroll bearing the legend "1862 Agriculture is the Foundation of Manufacture and Commerce 1889" or; the area between the shield and annulet to be azure, diapered with 44 mullets argent; the device and stars to be embroidered. The color will be trimmed on three edges with a knotted fringe of silk $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Attached below the spear head of the flag will be a cord 8 feet 6 inches in length, with a tassel at each end. Cord and tassels will be of blue and white silk strands."

The Department of Agriculture flag was designed by Paul P. Moller of the Exhibit Service of the Office of Information and approved by the Heraldic Division of the Quartermaster General's Office, War Department, on June 9, 1941.

